



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

NEWS RELEASE

*Working towards healthy, self-sustaining populations of all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration
well in progress by the year 2015*

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ASMFC Approves 2004 – 2008 Strategic Plan

New York, NY – The Commission has approved its Strategic Plan for 2004 – 2008, charting a course to achieve its long-term Vision of “healthy, self-sustaining populations of all Atlantic coast fish species or successful restoration well in progress by the year 2015.” The Plan establishes nine major goals and related strategies to pursue this Vision. These goals and strategies will guide the Commission’s activities over the next five years and will be implemented through Annual Action Plans.

“Development of this Strategic Plan was a very carefully thought-out process, during which the Commission sought input from all of its stakeholders through public meetings, workshops and the solicitation of public comment through the web site,” states Commission Chair John I. Nelson Jr. of New Hampshire. “Some of the things we heard focused on increasing our communication and partnerships with stakeholders, expanding public outreach efforts, measuring progress and accountability, and ensuring transparency and consistency in the fisheries management process. I think we have done a good job of capturing these issues in the new Plan and we are prepared to move forward with implementation.”

Below are the Plan’s nine goals.

1. Rebuild and restore depleted Atlantic coastal fisheries, and maintain and fairly allocate recovered fisheries through cooperative regulatory planning.
2. Strengthen cooperative research capabilities and improve the scientific basis for stock assessments and fisheries management actions.
3. Expand and fully utilize cooperative fisheries statistics programs.
4. Improve stakeholder compliance with Commission fishery management plans.
5. Enhance and cooperatively protect fisheries habitat.
6. Strengthen congressional, stakeholder, and public support for the Commission’s Mission, Vision, and achievements.
7. Respond efficiently and effectively to member states needs.
8. Develop and advance strategies to enhance learning and growth within the Commission.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species.

9. Provide efficient administration of the Commission's business affairs and ensure the Commission's financial stability.

The Commission also approved its 2004 Action Plan with specific tasks supporting the Strategic Plan. Copies of both the Strategic Plan and 2004 Action Plan will be available by mid-January and can be obtained by contacting the Commission office at (202)289-6400 or via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org, under "Breaking News." For more information, please contact Tina Berger, Public Affairs Specialist, at (202)289-6400 or <tberger@asmfc.org>.

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